

Fair Play AND THE SCHOOLS

Board of Education Fails to Fulfill Its Promise to Build Fern Avenue School.

—AN EDITORIAL—

"We're just a tiny tadpole in a big puddle, and I guess as long as we remain a part of the vast Los Angeles city school system, we cannot expect much consideration."—this was the remark made by one of the committee of Torrance citizens who went up to the Los Angeles Board of Education meeting this week to request that work on the promised Fern Avenue school be commenced at once.

The Torrance committee under the able leadership of Dr. J. S. Lancaster pointed out the urgent need of the Fern Avenue school, stressed the large financial contribution that this city makes to schools, and reminded the Board of Education that it had definitely promised Torrance the Fern Avenue school if the recent \$12,720,000 school bond issue carried. But the doctor's claims fell on deaf ears, as it was quite apparent that the Board of Education had made up its mind in advance to deny Torrance its school and nothing that might be said would alter the education board from its stand. Pre-election promises apparently mean no more to Los Angeles educators than they do to county politicians and the Board of Supervisors. But we didn't intend to say anything about the health clinic and the justice court, even if it has been a year since we were promised these institutions by our "big hearted" John Quinn. But to get back to the school question.

The flimsy excuse of the Board of Education that Torrance is soon to vote on a new charter which will automatically give this city control of its schools, reveals a most unfair attitude on the part of the school authorities. Perhaps the most ridiculous statement made by the school board was "we have put in over a million dollars in permanent improvements in Torrance which you would get for about half this amount should the charter election carry." Did you get it,—"WE have put in, etc.?" Just as if Torrance with its twenty-four millions of assessed valuation and the big school tax rate has not paid into the Board of Education coffers many times this amount during the 15 years it has been a member of the Los Angeles City school system. Torrance has paid dearly for its schools and it will continue to pay much more than it will receive in return so long as it remains a part of the Los Angeles city system.

Then, there is the Junior College situation. If Torrance were not a part of the Los Angeles city school system, Torrance boys and girls could attend any Junior College they might select and the state would pay the bill. Redondo and Hermosa Junior College students may attend Long Beach, Compton, Los Angeles or any other Junior College, because Redondo and Hermosa have their own schools. Schools have been in session three weeks, and it was only yesterday that Torrance students were finally told that they could attend the Compton Junior College instead of spending three hours a day motoring to Vermont Avenue College in Los Angeles. In the meantime, several fine families have moved to Long Beach

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DENY SEPULVEDA PROTESTS AT PACKED COUNCIL MEET

Combined Verbal and Written Objections to Opening, Widening Proceedings Are Less Than 25 Per Cent

An audience which taxed the capacity of the council chamber attended the protest hearing on the opening and widening of Sepulveda boulevard and a portion of Hawthorne boulevard at Tuesday night's council meeting. Twenty-one present verbally objected to the securing of the right-of-way for the great highway which ultimately will link the South Bay District with the San Fernando Valley and the inland route north to Bakersfield.

However, only seven written protests, signed by 11 property owners whose combined holdings represented but 4.15 per cent of the entire assessment district, were received and because the verbal protests owned, according to City Engineer Leonard, less than 25 per cent more of the district, the protests were denied. Councilman Carleton B. Bell introduced an ordinance ordering the improvement to proceed and directing the city attorney to file a condemnation suit to obtain the right-of-way under the Act of 1930.

Long Term In Court Ahead

These two actions followed after a prolonged discussion of the project between the objecting property owners, many of them non-residents, and city officials. It appeared that most of the protesters had understood that the proceedings were for the paving and improvement of Sepulveda and Hawthorne boulevards. City Engineer Leonard, Mayor John Dennis and Councilman G. A. R. Steiner endeavored to explain to the assembled throng that the project only included the opening and widening of the two roadways; this to be done at a relatively small cost in comparison with the proposed paving and improvement.

It will take from one and one-half to two years to get the condemnation suit through the courts, Leonard declared, and by that time it is hoped that better times will be in effect and people will be more agreeable toward the final improvement. However, property owners will have the right to file a protest against the improvement and when the movement is started for paving to protest against this, and if a 51 per cent of the owners are aligned against paving, the council will abandon the project.

Former City Attorney Perry G. Briney was present at the meeting to act in an advisory capacity to City Attorney Don Findley, who became counselor to the city Tuesday. Briney also assisted in attempting to clarify the matter of the opening and widening to the property owners present.

Big Property Owner Here

Dr. L. M. Ellenwood, owner of about 300 acres in Torrance, of which 300 acres are included in the assessment district, made a special trip here from his home in San Francisco to become acquainted with the project. While he did not file a protest against the opening and widening, Dr. Ellenwood told the council that he did not believe that the time was

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169 More Children In Schools Now Than This Time Last Year

One hundred sixty-nine more children are attending Torrance schools this week than at the same early-school period last year, according to a summary of enrollment reports received from the principals of the various institutions Tuesday. There are now 1854 boys and girls attending classes every day, as compared with 1685 a year ago.

High School	1931	1930
Elementary	595	575
Fern Avenue	544	840
Walteria	182	139
	153	131

Reported Voting Strength of City Revised To 3204

Registrar of Voters Kerr said last week that Torrance had 4652 voters eligible to participate in the Metropolitan Water District bond election, September 29.

But Robert Dominguez, city clerk of Los Angeles, in a letter to the Herald this week stated that this city had 3204 qualified voters—or 848 less than Kerr's figure.

The report, published in last week's Herald that Torrance had over 4000 voters caused much comment here and among city officials. It was believed that the Herald was very much in error. As a result of the widespread disbelief of the report, the Herald wrote to City Clerk Dominguez for an official statement, he being the official in charge of all matters pertaining to the coming special election.

Increase of 604 Voters

Dominguez's reply that Torrance had 3204 voters was received Tuesday. It is believed that Registrar of Voters Kerr erroneously included all of Moneta precincts and some of Lomita's territory which were not within the Torrance city limits.

The 3204 figure is an increase of 604 voters over the registration fully of October, 1930. According to the Los Angeles city clerk, 173 voters in the city's present total were acquired which the South Torrance (North Lomita) annexation was officially recorded.

At the close of the registration, August 20, the 11 Torrance city precincts, South Torrance and McDonald tract, had the following number of voters: McDonald tract, 327; South Torrance, 173; Precinct No. 1, 261; Precinct No. 2, 254; Precinct No. 3, 210; Precinct No. 4, 211; Precinct No. 5, 207; Precinct No. 6, 230; Precinct No. 7, 327; Precinct No. 8, 242; Precinct No. 9, 246; Precinct No. 10, 223; and Precinct No. 11, 236.

INSTALL NEW OFFICERS OF LEGION TUES.

District Commander Will Confer Honors At Closed Meeting

New officers of Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, American Legion, will be installed Tuesday evening, September 22, at the Legion clubhouse, Bay Hoskins, newly-elected commander of the 19th District, will be the installing officer. Hoskins lives in Redondo Beach.

A short business meeting will start at 8 o'clock next Tuesday evening and immediately afterwards the formal program will begin. The program and meeting are not open to the public, only the members of the post and the Legion Auxiliary being invited to attend, according to Col. N. F. Jamieson, chairman of the installation committee.

Louis J. Deininger will succeed Earl Conner as commander of the local post. Other officers to be seated at this time are: Clifton E. Thaxter, first vice commander; Harry Cull, second vice commander; Robert Deininger, finance officer; W. A. Wilkes, chaplain; Fred Tiffany, historian; Harvey Darling, surgeon-at-arms, and James Forrest, service officer. The executive committee for 1931-32 will be composed of Col. Jamieson, Charles Myers, and Earl Conner.

DRUM CORPS ORGANIZES FOR ITS SECOND YEAR

At a dinner meeting held at Earl's Cafe last Thursday evening, the local American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps re-organized and elected new officers who will guide the unit through 1931-32. By-laws and a constitution were also adopted at this time. R. J. Deininger was again chosen manager of the corps, and Fred Tiffany was elected assistant manager and drill master. He was named captain of the unit because of this latter position. Dr. C. L. Ingold was elected secretary-treasurer, R. W. Cooke, quartermaster, and W. A. Wilkes, historian.

Directors Won't Let Harry Dolley Resign

Although Harry H. Dolley, pioneer druggist and president of the Chamber of Commerce, 1928-29, tendered his resignation as a member of the chamber board of directors Monday because he said he found he was unable to attend all of the meetings, his fellow directors laid his letter "on the table" indefinitely. The directors expressed the hope that it would not be long until Dolley found it possible to resume his seat on the board.

ASK CHARTER MATTERS IN GOV'S. CALL

Can Save Two Year's Time On City Charter If Placed On Special Calendar

A letter was addressed to Governor James Rolph Monday by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce, asking him to include matters of charter-adoption and revision in his call for a special session of the Legislature, if and when his issues such a call.

The inclusion of charter matters in the governor's summons to the members of the Legislature is necessary if Torrance desires to have early action on the proposed charter. All matters to come before the state Legislature at the proposed special session must be mentioned by the governor in his call, otherwise they cannot be introduced at the extra meeting of the Legislature.

Would Save Two Years

Such an inclusion would save the city from waiting until 1933 before the proposed charter could be ratified by the Legislature. According to members of the board of freeholders which is now drafting the document for the city, the charter is expected to be ready for submission to the city council in about two weeks.

After the council has received the written constitution and by-laws of the city, the people are given an opportunity to study it and decide whether or not it should become the fundamental law of the city. After it has been voted on by the people of Torrance and if it is approved, the document then goes to the Legislature for final ratification.

BIBLE CLASS PLANS GALA EVENT HERE

Lieut.-Governor Frank F. Merriam will address the Torrance Men's Bible class and their guests next Sunday morning at 9:15 o'clock during the course of a special feature program at the Torrance Theatre. All men of the community and vicinity are cordially invited to attend this program as the Bible class intends to present a morning meeting different than any before attempted here.

The American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps will perform in their new dress uniforms and Jesse Callaghan, the "song-bird of the Pacific fleet," will present vocal numbers. Because of the limited seating capacity of the theatre, the program will be limited to men. Several organizations are planning to attend in a body.

Next Monday evening at 8:30 o'clock, the Bible class will hold its contract of a series of dinner meetings at the Torrance Woman's clubhouse. Rev. George P. Taubman of Long Beach will be the principal speaker and a program of entertainment will be given. Tickets are being offered for sale by Officer George Dalton and Street Superintendent "Bill" Cascoigne.

Long Junior College Fight Ends With Victory For Harbor Area

After more than three weeks of uncertainty, Compton Junior College officials were able this week to permit registration of Torrance students in that institution. The Los Angeles Board of Education agreed with the school district to pay the tuition of all Los Angeles school district students who desire to enter Compton J. C. instead of traveling back and forth from the Vermont Avenue-Los Angeles Junior College.

This will permit to register about 225 of the 360 students in the Harbor District who applied for admission to Compton J. C. From the Los Angeles district, according to O. Scott Thompson, superintendent of secondary schools in that city. Permission was granted Compton to take any student living south of 92nd street in Los Angeles. This will permit any graduate of Torrance, San Pedro, Phineas Banning, Narbonne, Gardena and Bell high schools and part of the graduates of Washington, Fremont and Jordan High schools to attend Compton J. C.

Controversy Started in March

Settlement of the controversy over tuition payments was based on an agreed tuition cost of \$170 per pupil in daily attendance. Los Angeles will pay only \$70 as the state government furnishes \$100 per student enrolled in a district junior college.

The situation which has harassed Compton J. C. officials and civic leaders in the Harbor

SCHOOL BOARD "RENIGS" ON BUILDING FERN AVE. SCHOOL

Promised \$80,000 Institution Held Up By Los Angeles Authorities Until City Charter Is Voted On

Despite the assurance of the Board of Education that a new school would rise on the site of the Fern Avenue bungalows if the school bond issue, voted March 27, carried, members of the Chamber of Commerce Educational committee and Carl Hyde learned Monday evening from the school authorities that the proposed and announced \$80,000 institution will not be built this year.

Dr. J. S. Lancaster, chairman of the local committee, presented the city's case to the Board of Education in detail but in return was told that no further action will be taken toward the construction of the new school until a decision has been rendered on the proposed city charter by the people of Torrance.

Elder Schultz Sells Interest In Ford Agency

Schultz & Peckham Is New Name Chosen On 10th Anniversary of Firm

C. C. Schultz, father of Charles C. Schultz, and father-in-law of George J. Peckham, last week disposed of his interests in the firm of Schultz-Peckham-Schultz, Ford dealers, to his junior partners, and the firm will hereafter be known as Schultz & Peckham. As the elder Mr. Schultz took no active part in the conduct of the business, there will naturally be no change in policies or personnel.

The dissolution of the old three membership partnership and the formation of a new partnership of Schultz & Peckham was consummated on the tenth anniversary of the founding of the firm in Torrance, which is the first anniversary of Ford dealership ever located in this city.

175 Enrolled In Evening Classes

More Subjects Cause Large Attendance Here

Approximately 175 people interested in obtaining knowledge in commercial subjects, the arts, and various kinds of shop work, enrolled in the Torrance Evening High school, when it opened, September 14. This year the Evening High school is endeavoring to offer a more varied list of subjects than it has before and this partly accounts for the larger attendance.

The commercial department which teaches bookkeeping, typing, comptometry, and shorthand has the largest class, and physical education, sewing and shop classes follow in their respective order. The principal of the Evening High school is Guy L. Mowry, and anyone interested in enrolling should see him.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Women's Auxiliary of the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital will meet Wednesday, September 23, for an all-day sewing bee, beginning at 10 o'clock at the nurses' home, 1416 Cota avenue.

Separation Not Considered

An important point in Dr. Lancaster's statement was the declaration of the fact that at no time has the matter of separating Torrance schools from the Los Angeles system been considered by the board of freeholders now drafting the city charter. He also said that the decision of the county council relative to the automatic separation of the schools if the charter was adopted was purely a matter of opinion and that it had not been tested in the courts.

Adopt Counsel's Opinion

It was apparent to the Torrance committee that the Board of Education had "made up its mind" in advance of the hearing Monday evening and that nothing the local citizens could say in defense of the new school would change the attitude of the school board. The members of the Board of Education told the committee that they were in the opinion of the county council on the matter and that until a decision is rendered on the city charter nothing further will be done on the new school. From the statements made by

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